



Rohingya

Indigenous → Ethnic Cleansing

Dr. Hla Kyaw
(European Rohingya Council)
23.10.2015
Varbergs Peace Forum
Sweden

Who are Rohingya?

- Borderland people of Arakan, Burma (Myanmar)
- Culturally and Linguistically distinct ethnic group
- Recognized as distinct ethnic group and citizen of Myanmar by 4 successive governments after independence from British

Recognized Ethnicity and Citizen

- **U Ba Swe**

“Rohingya are a race of Burma and are equal as others”

- **Sao Shwe Thaik**

“If Muslims from Arakan are not a Burma's Ethnic group, then I am also not an ethnic person of Burma”



Rohingya language

In 1961
Burmese Broadcasting
Service (BBS)
as Rohingya Language
Programme



Rohingyas in Burmese history (1936-2010)

- ❖ **Daw Aye Nyunt** (Zura Begum): one of first two woman-parliamentarian in Burmese history during 1951 election
- ❖ **U Sultan Ahmed**: minister of Education and Health in 1960
- ❖ **U Shwe Maung** and **U Aung Zaw Win**: MPs elected in 2010 General Election



Major Ethnic Cleansing Operations

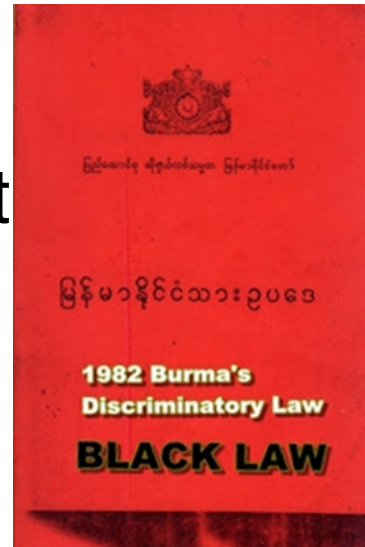
- 1965 - Rohingya Language Programme was cancelled
- 1967/68 - Ngazinka Operation
- 1978 - Dragon King (Naga Min) Operation
- 1982 - Citizenship Law
- 1991 - Operation Clean Nation
- 1994 - Stopped issuing Birth Certificates
- 2005 - Two Child Policy for Rohingya
- 2012 – New-Start of the Ongoing Ethnic Cleansing

1982 Citizenship Law

- Drafted by Dictator Ne Win
- Condemned internationally

Restricts:

- Nationality
- Freedom of movement
- Freedom of education
- Freedom of Religion
- Marriage
- Healthcare
- Public services
- Legal assistance



Imposed:

- ✓ Forced Labour
- ✓ Land Confiscation
- ✓ Arbitrary Taxation
- ✓ Arbitrary Arrest
- ✓ Incriminate Killing
- ✓ Rape
- ✓ Hatred

Ethnic Cleansing Since 2012 onwards

"The planned deliberate removal from a specific territory, persons of a particular ethnic group, by force or intimidation, in order to render that area ethnically homogenous." **The United Nations, 1993**



2012 Massacre

- Started in **June, 2012**, five days after the massacre of 10 Burmese Muslims in Southern Arakan
- With the pretext of a rape case **of Rakhine girl**
- Preceded with various propagandas circulating **Anti-Rohingya hatred leaflets**

- Hundreds of people **killed**
- Hundreds of religious infrastructures burned
- Thousands of houses **burnt**
- Thousands of shops and properties **looted**
- Thousands **forced into IDP and high sea**
- Thousands of youths and educated elders **forced into prisons, no trial**

- Thousands of children and women **starved**
- Restriction on
 - movement, **education, livelihood, healthcare access.**
- Closure of Religious institutions
- Widespread rape of Rohingya girls
- Further restriction of **healthcare, food and water**

Duchiradan Violence

January 28, 2014

- ❖ Pretext Police Officer's death
- ❖ More than 60 homes burnt down, 30 people killed, 40 women raped
- ❖ Tortures & mass arbitrary arrests
- ❖ Carried out by Rakhine extremists in cooperation with Governmental forces
- ❖ Total Media Blackout



Long Doong Fire

March 10, 2014

- More than 70 homes burnt down
- Many innocent Rohingyas arbitrarily arrested & tortured to accept that they themselves torched their homes
- 5 Rohingya women brutally tortured & their private parts burnt with candles



International NGOs Attack

March 26, 2014

- Premeditated Attack on the NGOs in Sittwe
- Attempt to get rid of International observers during population census & to exclude Rohingya Ethnic Identity
- Attempt to continue slow-burning genocide of Rohingya by blocking humanitarian aids & medical treatment



IDPs and Entire Rohingya

No.	Township	Reported IDPs	IDP Sites
1	Kyaukphy	1,601	2
2	Kyauktaw	6,594	11
3	Maungdaw	1,400	9
4	Minbya	5,187	7
5	Mrauk-U	3,688	4
6	Myebon	2,899	2
7	Pauktaw	19,261	5
8	Ramree	264	2
9	Rathedaung	3,944	5
10	Sittwe	98,676	21
Total		143,514	68

**as of August 2015*

**thousands more live as unregistered*



Current Situation in IDPs and Rohingya Community

- ❖ Shortage of Food and Drinking water
- ❖ Children malnutrition, infectious diseases such as Hepatitis
- ❖ Lack of Shelter
- ❖ Increased incidence deaths of pregnant women & babies during delivery, 3-4 people per day
- ❖ Restriction on livelihood
- ❖ Restriction on movement
- ❖ Arrest, torture, rape, human trafficking, etc.

Restriction on seeking health care



Pictures of two babies from Sittwe IDP camps, Suffering from Hydrocephalus and malnutrition, need emergency hospitalization but not allowed



Disenfranchisement



- Only and last ID declared
- Voting right stripped,
- Rohingya candidates are denied to stand as an candidate for the parliament

Who are involved?

Political
& Military



Police
forces



Religious
community



Extremists



General
public



Restrictions on:

- NGOs
- Journalists
- Aids delivery
- Rohingya

Enough Aids do not reach the Rohingya

Most of the foreign aids end at the hand of:

- **The government**
- **The Rakhine ethnic group**
- **The extremist monks**
- **MRF (Myanmar Rescue Foundation)**

Important people involved



The Rise of Racism

- Racism is widespread and institutionalized
- Emergence of Ma Ba Tha nationwide
- Islamophobia is sweeping the country
- Ethnic and Religious diversity are instrumentalized for political gain by ruling party

Thing that ended is not necessarily ended!



GERMANY JULY 1935

"I am a defiler of the race"

A young man who allegedly had illicit relations with a Jewish woman is marched through the streets for public humiliation.



BURMA AUGUST 2012

"I am a traitor and slave of Kalar"

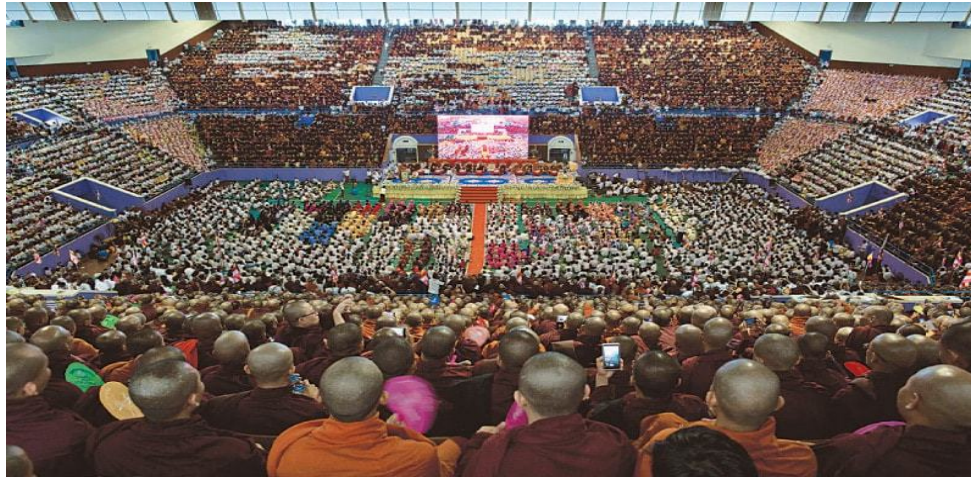
A young man being paraded around Myebon in Arakan state for buying/selling groceries to Kalars (derogatory term for Muslims).

Race and Religion Protection Laws

1. Monogamy Law
2. Religious Conversion Law
3. Interfaith Marriage Law
4. Population Control Law



More To Come



Wirathu has promised to implement laws to prevent:

- Muslims women wearing scarves
- Celebrating Islamic holidays & traditions
- Selling Halal food

Renown People are saying:

7 Nobel Laureates



“A textbook case of genocide in which an entire indigenous community is being systematically wiped out by the Burmese government.”

Desmond Tutu (South Africa)
Mairead Maguire (Northern Ireland)
Jody Williams (The United States)
Tawakkol Karma (Yemen)
Shirin Ebadi (Iran)
Leymah Gbowee (Liberia)
Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (Argentina)

described Rohingya at Oslo Conference

George Soros

A survivor of Nazi Genocide



**"In 1944 as a Jew in
Budapest, I, too was a
Rohingya.
The parallels to Nazi
Genocide are
alarming."**

What is next?

- Humanitarian and health care aids
- Psycho-social support to the victims of rape, mass violence
- Strengthen Rohingya civil society
- Inter-faith dialogue inside Myanmar
- Public education inside Myanmar
- Actions against hate-speech

What is next?

- **UN**: Intervention is not a choice but it is a must before it is too late; Independent investigation; Perpetrators to Justice
- **EU Govts**: Sanction against Myanmar
- **Activists**: Speak out for Rohingya, raise awareness
- **General people**: Raising voice against ethnic cleansing of Rohingya

